

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4, 7 and 12 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 24, line 22 - page 25, line 15. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsuyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,886,028) in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 7,145,673) and further in view of Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 7,173,718). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Matsuyama, Lin and Iwata, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or render obvious every claimed feature of independent claims 1 and 7. Matsuyama, Lin and Iwata do not teach or render obvious "a settings image data editing portion receiving ... an edit instruction ... that indicates at least one setting item identified by the user, and editing the settings image data, based on the edit instruction, to include only the at least one setting item identified by the user in the settings image and to exclude at least one setting item not identified by the user from the settings image," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 7 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Iwata teaches the previously recited edit instruction at col. 32, lines 20-22 and Fig. 1 (see Office Action, page 9). However, these passages of Iwata merely relate to a setting display box 17 that automatically displays all of the alleged setting items chosen by a user (see Iwata, col. 32, lines 20-23 and Fig. 21). Therefore, Iwata does not teach or render obvious an edit instruction unit that includes only the at least one setting item identified by the user in the settings image and excludes at least one setting item not identified by the user from the settings image, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7.

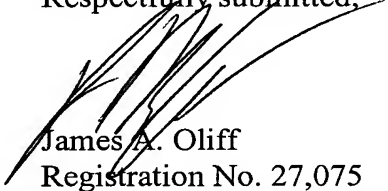
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the above-applied references. Claims 2, 3-6, 8-11, 13 and 14, which variously depend from independent claims 1 and 7, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent

claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Patrick T. Muffo
Registration No. 60,342

JAO:PTM/hs

Date: December 29, 2008
Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--